



Progress® Rollbase®: Exposing data to Telerik® AppBuilder

Progress Software maintains an open source standard for Cloud Data Objects. You can find the specification and download an implementation from github.

The specification defines a catalog schema for exposing objects via REST calls and the requirements for a service to handle those calls.

Rollbase and Telerik AppBuilder support an implementation of this standard, the JSDO (or JavaScript Data Object). This video shows how to take advantage of that implementation to quickly build modern mobile apps that access Rollbase application data.

This details how the implementation works:

Rollbase automatically creates and updates Progress Data Catalogs, which define the schema for application objects.

The Rollbase Progress Data Service handles the REST calls from the mobile app.

On the Telerik side, the AppBuilder provides a template for building apps that access Rollbase data. It includes a login page, a page that contains a list of records, and a file to configure the connection between the app and Rollbase.

To create a mobile app, you perform some tasks in the Rollbase environment and some in Telerik AppBuilder.

To reproduce the steps in this video, you will need login credentials for both Rollbase and Telerik Platform. Visit www.rollbase.com and www.telerik.com to obtain trial accounts.

Let's walk through the steps that you can use to jumpstart your app.

In the Rollbase environment, you'll create a catalog and identify the URIs for connection.

In AppBuilder, you'll create a project using the template, configure it to connect to Rollbase, and test the app.

In this example, the Lending Library application contains three title records. The mobile app will access Rollbase to display a list of these titles.

First, create a Progress Data Catalog. This functionality is available from the Setup Home screen in the Applications section.

Rollbase provides a built-in catalog with all objects in it. But for efficiency and security, you want to create a catalog that only contains the objects whose records you want to expose.

Create a new catalog, giving it a name and description, select the Title object from the Lending Library application, and save.

Once a catalog is created, you can download it and upload it to the AppBuilder, or you can reference the catalog URL. Rollbase keeps the catalogs up to date. So, if you reference it using the URL, you don't need to do anything if you make changes to the Rollbase objects.

Click the Catalog Name to view its details and save the URL for use later.

Next, identify the URL for the Rollbase REST service. For this, go back to Setup Home and click the API link in the Applications section.



With these two URLs at hand, you're ready to start a mobile app. Let's take a look at the steps again. (Read them or just give viewers a minute to see them)

After logging in to your Telerik account, click the Telerik Platform link in the banner to open the AppBuilder.

First create a hybrid app with a blank starting point.

Then create a hybrid project and select the Progress Data Service template.

The new project opens in the navigator. Note the README file, which contains helpful information.

The scripts folder contains the jsdoSettings file. Edit this file by entering the information that allows the app to connect to Rollbase and access the Title object.

Paste in the service URI from the Rollbase API page.

Then the catalog URI from the catalog view page.

For the authentication model, you can use basic or form, this example uses form.

The displayFields parameter allows you to specify a comma-separated list of fields, using the fields integration names. Since the app should display the titles, enter the integration name of the Title field, in this case that is simply "name".

The resource name specifies the object, again using the integration name. Enter the integration name for this Titles object.

Save the file and close the tab. Now you're ready to test and see the app that the template created.

Log in

Display titles

You can use a project created in this way as a starting point for your app. To learn about Kendo UI controls, check the Telerik website for tutorials and documentation. To learn how to use Kendo controls with the JSDO, see The Progress Data Objects and Services User Guide and Reference:<https://documentation.progress.com/output/pdo/>